



# Griffith Presbyterian Church

*Knowing JESUS, Growing in JESUS, Serving JESUS & Sharing JESUS.*

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## Purpose

Our purpose is to glorify God by becoming more like our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, and to live together in love under the authority of the Bible, reaching out with the gospel of Jesus Christ and making disciples in our local community and beyond.

## Main meetings

Our main Sunday meeting begins at 9:30am. A common service order is below:

Welcome  
Song  
Prayer  
Collection  
Song  
Announcements  
Bible Reading  
Kids Talk  
Song  
Bible Talk  
Song  
Close

Service leaders are encouraged to change this order if they feel it will be helpful. People from the congregation are often interviewed about the ministries that they are involved in or significant events in their life that might encourage and build up the congregation.

After the Kids Talk a Sunday School, for children age 3 to 12, commences in the Hall. The Bible is taught by various members of the congregation on a rostered basis.

At many times over the last decade a Night Church has been held. For various reasons this has not become established and the current Night Church will finish at the end of September 2010.

#### *Attendance*

Adults: 60 per week

Children: 30 per week

The ages of our regular attendees range from 0 to 90+

### **Ministries (not connected to Sunday meeting)**

#### *Bible Studies*

Our church currently has 4 Bible studies running. The times and days are below:

Tuesday Night – from 7:30pm

Wednesday Night – from 7:15pm

Wednesday Morning – from 10:00am

Friday Morning – from 10:00am (for women only, childminding available)

Some people in our congregation meet regularly with each other to read the bible, pray and hold each other accountable.

### *Youth Group*

Griffith Pressy Youth runs each Friday night from 7:30 – 9:15pm. A normal night looks like this:

7:30 – 7:55pm	Games
7:55 – 8:15pm	Prayer
8:15 – 8:55pm	Bible Study
8:55 – 9:15pm	Supper

During the year we also have some social events (generally the last night of term). We also have some Youth Group dinners where a particular topic is focussed on such as: The persecuted church, Tear Australia and the Gospel need in India.

### *Preaching*

Several men in our congregation have been trained in preaching and regularly exercise these gifts and skills; both in Griffith (when the need or opportunity arises) and also in smaller surrounding towns. These towns include: Hillston, Goolgowi, Gunbar, Finley, Rankin's Springs, West Wyalong, Talimba, Barmedman, Merrool and Hay.

### *Primary School Scripture*

During 2010 our church has had 14 SRE teachers meaning, teaching around 300 kids. The material used is CONNECT, produced by Anglican Youthworks.

### *High School Scripture*

High School scripture has been running in Griffith for a long time. Currently there are two classes running each week in the two state High Schools in Griffith. Different classes are taught each week so the Gospel is usually explicitly focused on rather than teaching through the Bible. This ministry is in danger of not continuing as 2 of the 3 teachers will be unavailable in 2011.

### *Evangelism*

For the previous 9 years our church has put on what we call Good News Week. This involves a puppet play performed at around 16 local primary schools. The week has also included: men's and women's events, a youth musters and a kids club. In previous years some students from the Wagga Wagga AFES group have joined us after their National Conference and run a Gospel presentation in the High Schools and helped with each of the events.

### *Conventions*

In 2008 the women of our church were trained to preach and decided to run a convention to provide an opportunity to give their talks. This was extremely successfully and has been run every year since. The men decided to join the party and run a men's convention in 2009. These men are currently preparing for the Griffith Men's Convention (GMC) in 2010.

### *Pastoral Care*

A pastoral care team operates. They visit people in the hospital, provide meals for families after babies are born, collect food for disadvantaged people and provide care in other ways.

### *Music Ministry*

Our Church has three music teams that alternate Sundays. One team plays the organ, the second uses the piano and the third a band. The leaders of these teams have a list of available musicians and plan their Sunday around who they would like to work with and who is available. The Brooker family will play on the odd Sunday; their children are growing in confidence and skill each time they serve us through music.

### *P.W.A*

The P.W.A meets on the third Tuesday of each month in the Church hall. They currently have 14 members. Several P.W.A functions are held throughout the year such as: A Soup, Sandwich and Slice luncheon and Friendship morning teas. The group supports all standing committees with prayer and financial support. The group has become a valued supporter of PIM with Christmas boxes being delivered by the Padre each year.

President: Elaine Pringle

Secretary: Julie Harnett

Treasurer: Dulcie Knight

There are many other things that our church is involved in. Please see the attached mind map produced by a member of our congregation that shows the many things that happen as part of life in GPC.

## **Mission Partnerships**

We currently budget to give \$5000 a year to Gospel work outside Griffith. The dispersal is as follows:

The Connor family at Talua Bible College in Vanuatu	\$2000
Christian Witness to Israel	\$500
The Stuart family in Alice Springs (AIM)	\$1000
The church in Myanmar	\$500
Presbyterian Inland Mission	\$500
Bible Society of NSW	\$500

Throughout the year the Committee of Management may decide to support other Gospel initiatives as the funds and need arises.

In 2009 the church budgeted to give \$1000 to MDP and will increase this amount to \$1500 in 2011

## **Session**

Our session meets on the last Monday night of each month. The elders are as follows:

George Moore  
Danny Piper  
Elaine Pringle  
Leon Thorpe (Session Clerk)

## **COM, financial status and facilities**

The Committee of Management meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month. The non-elder members of the Committee are currently:

Mike Smith (Treasurer)  
Allan Welch (Assistant Treasurer)  
Pip Whiting (Secretary)  
Mitch Bianchini (Assistant Secretary)  
Gwenda Millard  
Dave Hayes  
Sue Thorpe

Our income over the last couple of years is as follows:

2008	\$99 280.44
2009	\$103 045.45
to July 2010	\$51 015.21

God has richly blessed our congregation and we are working hard at using our money for the Glory of God and the furtherance of his kingdom. The bulk of our income comes from the weekly collection. Some income is derived from funerals and donations from the P.W.A.

*Manse*



## *Church Building and Hall*



## **Griffith the town**

This information has been taken directly from Griffith City Council's website.

The thriving City of Griffith is the regional centre of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, an abundant, picturesque oasis in an area which the explorer John Oxley described in 1817 as being "uninhabitable and useless to civilised man". Proclaimed a City in 1987, Griffith, with its modern shops, sophisticated boutiques, international restaurants, clubs, tourist attractions, leisure, recreational and accommodation facilities, bursts with vitality and friendly warmth.

Griffith's path from "uninhabitable...howling wilderness" to today's cosmopolitan city has been a relatively short one, having its beginnings less than eighty years ago with the advent to the area of irrigation. Following exploration of the inland, the 19th century saw the westward movement of settlers who utilised the semi-arid plains as massive sheep stations. The Griffith district occupies land which originally formed part of the pastoral runs of Cuba (now Kooba) and Benerembah Stations.

Then, in the late 19th century, Sir Samuel McCaughey proved how irrigation could change the agricultural landscapes - by the potential for diversified crops and livestock, and the capacity for intensive farming. The New South Wales Government legislated for the "Barren Jack and Murrumbidgee Canals Construction Act" in 1906; Barren Jack (now Burrinjuck) Dam was commenced in 1907; huge tracks of land were resumed, and the great scheme was launched.

The town of Griffith was proclaimed in 1916 and was named after Arthur Griffith, who was the New South Wales Minister for Public Works, 1910 - 1915. It was designed by Walter Burley Griffin, the Chicago architect who received world wide acclaim in 1912 when he won the competition for the design of Canberra.

Like Canberra, his design for Griffith featured a distinctive radial pattern with wide tree - lined streets, ring roads and parks. The focal point of the town was to be a grand circle, the centre of government administration, crowning the central hill, with the business sector in close proximity. Burley Griffin's plan, however was not completely adhered to for a number of reasons, including the fact that his town plan catered for a population of 30,000. Also, at the initial auction of business blocks in July, 1916, sites along the present main street, Banna Avenue, proved to be cheaper than those located nearer the grand circle and they were in closer proximity to the railway station.

The miracle of irrigation has lead to the establishment of two main farm types in the area. Firstly, there are the horticultural farms with an average size of 16 hectares, clustered around the city and its satellite villages, producing citrus, grapes, prunes, peaches, nectarines, apricots and plums. Secondly, there are large area mixed farms of about 180 - 200 hectares, on which rice, winter cereals, vegetables, sheep and beef cattle constitute the major agricultural yields.

There are a huge array of recreational outlets in and around Griffith. All sorts of sports are catered for at the playing fields, sports ovals, indoor stadiums, racetracks, and pools within the city boundaries. As well, Lake Wyangan, 10 km from the city centre is an ideal location for water sports such as sailing, water skiing, power boating, rowing and windsurfing - and has 10 hectares of picturesque picnic grounds.



A little further afield, the Cocoparra National Park, 24 km from Griffith provides the opportunity for bushwalking, picnicking, nature study, bush camping and photography. The park is abundant with varieties of flora and fauna, and the springtime sees the area alive with colour as a great number of wildflowers burst into bloom.<sup>1</sup>

The long-term drought that Australia has been experiencing has affected Griffith and the lack of water continues to be a concern. It is feared that many families will need to move from the town in order to continue supporting their families. Many friends of church members may be affected in this way.

**POPULATION:** Griffith City Council Shire population 23,801

Griffith's population is made of towns and villages surrounding the city.

Griffith City 15,827

Beelbangera 305

Yenda 1,516

Yoogali 1,482

Hanwood 868

Other villages in the region: Bilbul, Lake Wyangan, Nericon, Tharbogang.

(\* ABS Census 2006)

**AREA:** 1,605.50 sq. km.

**HEIGHT ABOVE SEA LEVEL:** 129.2m, 146.03 East - 34.17 South

**RAINFALL:** 401.14 mm pa.<sup>2</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> Griffith information gained from: [http://www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/view\\_doc.asp?id=73&cat=134](http://www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/view_doc.asp?id=73&cat=134)

<sup>2</sup> Statistics information gained from: [http://www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/view\\_doc.asp?id=74&cat=135](http://www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/view_doc.asp?id=74&cat=135)

This document gives a snapshot of the many things that happen at GPC. It is regularly updated by the person in our congregation who has created it. Other information about our Church can be found at: [www.griffithpresbyterianchurch.yolasite.com](http://www.griffithpresbyterianchurch.yolasite.com).

